

85/20

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Network Enhancements & Workstation Project (NEWS)

FROM:

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director for Administration
7D 24 Hqs

EXTENSION

NO.

DDA 85-0305/2

DATE

1 February 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Comptroller
7C 21 Hqs

7/1/85

Jim,

2.

The attached paper responds to your 24 January AIM note (copy attached).

3. Executive Director
7D 55 Hqs

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Attachments

The attached is consistent with our understanding of NEWS. As you know, we included [redacted] (and 2 positions) in our 1986 budget for NEWS. While ODP would like to get a head start on this major effort now, I am not optimistic that we will be able to come up with any surplus 1985 funds to do so. NEWS will require significant additional funds over the next several years.

Some reductions in the current outyear estimates may be possible from ADP resources programmed throughout the Agency for terminals, but we don't have a good handle on how much. Hopefully, the results of the data call suggested in my note of 28 January will help to quantify the possible offset.

DCI
EXEC
REG

C106

DCI
EXEC
REG

SS 0305/2

NETWORK ENHANCEMENTS & WORKSTATION PROJECT

NEWS

Prepared for:

Congress

29 January 1985

The NEWS (Network Enhancements and Workstation) Project addresses two closely related Agency problems: the computer terminal available to our users and the data communications system that connects these devices to our central computers.

More than a decade ago the Agency selected a standard terminal and associated communications system to support the overwhelming majority of its data processing requirements. By any measure, this system has supported the Agency's needs very well over time.

Then, beginning two years ago, it became apparent to our users that this solution had inherent limitations which were going to severely limit the Agency's ability to effectively use the new technology being developed by the computer and communications industry. Elements leading to a general user dissatisfaction and prompting NEWS included:

- A word processing environment wholly incompatible with the data processing services;
- A plethora of IBM mainframe software which could not be used by the Agency due to the incompatibility of our terminals and communications system with this software; and
- Rapid development of the personal computer (PC) marketplace with a set of software which also was beyond the reach of Agency users.

While these points have significant impact upon the users of data processing services, Agency technical personnel were becoming aware of

further, more basic inadequacies of the current system. These included:

- The recognition that Agency programs such as SAFE, CAMS-II, and the ALLSTAR Upgrade represented fundamental changes in system architecture with greater distributed processing;
- The recognition that the personal computer is a 'computer', allowing further opportunities to enhance functionality and performance of Agency data processing systems;
- The recognition that a new high performance network with better data transmission speeds and services would greatly enhance the quality of the services provided to the users of data processing systems.

The decision to build a new facility on the CIA Headquarters compound provided the opportunity to begin addressing these shortcomings. The first and most basic step was taken by the New Building Communications Project in providing a modern communications backbone for both telephone and data services in the New Building as well as renovation of these services in the current facility.

Project NEWS takes the final steps in delivering the potential benefits of these new services to the end users. It will provide hardware to connect the new, high performance network to the central computers. It will provide users of SAFE, the Allstar Upgrade, and our other new systems a way to access these systems efficiently and more reliably because of automated network management facilities.

Project NEWS will also provide the capability to support a new workstation based upon a commercially available personal computer (PC). It will combine the word processing capabilities of our Wangs and the data processing functions of our current Delta Data terminal into a single workstation. In addition, users will be able to exploit the rapidly developing PC marketplace for services currently not available or implemented more efficiently in the workstation, such as word processing, spread sheets, application interface support, and others reflecting the software marketplace. It will also provide access to large quantities of software available on the mainframe computers that we cannot use today with our current terminals.

As part of NEWS, software is being developed which will permit most of the applications currently running on the central computers to work with either the old terminals or the new workstation. This will avoid conversion of these computer programs simultaneously avoiding the costs and risk. Also it will provide a smooth transition while both terminal types are present in the system over the next several years.

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